

POLICY BULLETIN

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

NSLP 05-06

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SUBJECT: Reauthorization 2004: Communication with Households
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The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) would like to remind Local Educational Agencies (LEA) of the requirement concerning communications with households regarding application, certification and verification procedures for free and reduced price school meals. Section 104(b)(1) of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Act) amended the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act at 42 USC 1758(b)(8)(A) to require that: "Any communication with a household shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the maximum extent practicable, in a language that parents and legal guardians can understand."

The FNS recognizes that many LEAs provide their own translations or adopt our prototypes, and we want to stress the importance of the portion of the law quoted above. Whenever LEAs are communicating with households applying for or participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program, this communication must be comprehensible and in a uniform format.

In addition, FNS has provided updated materials in Spanish, which are available on the FNS website (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/FRP/frp.process.htm>). We are also in the process of determining, based on States' requests for translations, the priority for translations of the updated materials. Based upon this input, we intend to have our prototype application package translated into the languages deemed most needed. We plan to provide up to five translations prior to the beginning of School Year 2006-2007, and will add additional translations annually. We will also continue to update the English and Spanish versions as needed.

In the meantime, the translated application packages currently available on the FNS website are still valid. They do not reflect the household application prototype that FNS has designed as a result of the 2004 Reauthorization Act, but they are nevertheless useful and acceptable as a means of establishing a child's eligibility for free or reduced price meals. In addition, FNS is exploring the possibility of making addenda to these translations that would reflect the major changes resulting from Reauthorization.

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